

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 10429 162301 Z

70/63

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 /026 W

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R 131849 Z APR 73 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T PARIS 10429

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE LINE ADDED - ALSO CORRECT
PARA 1 LINE 7)

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IS, EG, SA, KU

SUBJ: POSSIBLE 1973 VISIT TO FRANCE BY ABBA EBAN?

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: PARIS 24977 DEC 1972

1. HA- ARETZ CORRESPONDENT ELIE MAISSI (WHO MUST BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED) GAVE EMBOFF APRIL 10 PHOTOCOPY OF LETTER DATED OCTOBER 16, 1972, FROM PREMIER MESSMER TO GENERAL DE BENOUVILLE, A GAULLIST DEPUTY, OUTSTANDING RESISTANCE HERE, AND CHAIRMAN OF JOURS DE FRANCE PUBLICATION, TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS: QUOTE: MY DEAR PIERRE. LIKE YOU, I WANT THE CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND THE ISRAELIS TO REMAIN UNBROKEN. TO REINVIGORATE THEM, THE MILITARY TERRAIN DOES NOT SEEM TO ME, FOR THE MOMENT, THE BEST. BUT YOU MAY MAKE KNOWN TO YOUR INTERLOCUTORS THAT WE WOULD GLADLY WELCOME TO PARIS M. ABBA EBAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL, EITHER IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY OR OFFICIALLY, IF HE EXPRESSES THE DESIRE FOR THIS. BELIEVE, MY DEAR PIERRE, IN MY FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP. (SIGNED) PIERRE MESSMER. END QUOTE.

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2. EMBOFF ASKED MAISSI WHEN EBAN MIGHT COME TO FRANCE, NOTING VISIT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE PROPITIOUS FOR SOME TIME IN WAKE OF RECENT VIOLENCE IN NICOSIA AND BEIRUT. MAISSI THOUGHT IF TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST CALM DOWN SUFFICIENTLY, ISRAELIS MIGHT SUGGEST EBAN VISIT TO FRANCE IN JUNE OR JULY, OR PERHAPS SHORTLY BEFORE FALL ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL. MEANTIME, FRENCH WOULD WELCOME SAUDI ARABIA' S KING FAYSAL, EMIR OF KUWAIT, AND PERHAPS OTHER ARAB LEADERS OF SMALL SHEIKHDOMS IN ORDER TO SATISFY ARAB SENSITIVITIES AND EASE THE WAY FOR A VISIT BY EBAN.

3. IN APRIL 12 CALL AT QUAI, EMBOFF ASKED DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST ROUILLON ABOUT COMING VISITS TO FRANCE BY ARAB LEADERS. ROUILLON SAID THAT KING FAYSAL WOULD BE HERE MAY 14 TO 16, BUT THAT DATES NOT YET FIXED FOR VISITS OF OTHERS. ROUILLON ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HAFEZ ISMAIL WOULD ALSO BE VISITING PARIS " IN NEAR FUTURE" TO CARRY FORWARD HIS ROUND OF TALKS WITH KEY CAPITALS ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

4. ROUILLON THOUGHT THIS WEEK' S VIOLENCE BY BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS WOULD NECESSARILY SET BACK ANY POTENTIAL DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AIMED AT BREAKING THROUGH IMPASSE IN ARAB- ISRAELI SITUATION. THUS, HE DID NOT SEE HOW VERY MUCH COULD COME OUT OF ISMAIL VISIT HERE.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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